The National
Future Farmer
December – January, 1988-89

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The Bottom Line

The long-awaited study of agricultural education in secondary schools by the National Research Board of the National Academy of Science has been released. The study was started almost four years ago.

Some people who reviewed the report have indicated they feel the study is critical of FFA. Keep in mind the study was intended to help FFA and agricultural education by identifying areas where the program could be improved. Two important recommendations of the panel are worthy of note here.

The study suggests that "FFA should change its name and revise its symbols, rituals, contests, awards, and requirements for membership . . . to reflect a contemporary image of agriculture and a broadened and improved agricultural education program."

The constitutional amendments that came before the National FFA Convention in Kansas City did deal with some of these changes but they may not be sufficient to quiet the critics.

While no doubt many agricultural education programs in high schools need to change, it would seem that the study did not give agricultural education and FFA sufficient credit for many of the changes that are being made to modernize and update the program.

Perhaps it was stated best by Kevin Ochsner, national FFA Secretary, who said in an Associated Press release from Kansas City, "FFA has been changing. . . the image has not caught up with that change."

Another major point made by the panel was the need for achieving "agricultural literacy" in this country. "Most Americans know very little about agriculture, its social and economic significance in the United States, and particularly, its link to human health and environmental quality," the panel reported.

"Agriculture," the panel said, "is too important a topic to be taught only to the relatively small percentage of students considering careers in agriculture and pursuing vocational agriculture studies."

The Academy's findings could make an interesting discussion at your next chapter meeting.

Wilson Carnes

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Mailbag

Keep Magazine Coming!

I was a member of the Soquel, California chapter for two, wonderful, exciting years after graduating from Soquel High School in 1987. I now work for a retail nursery, and would like to continue to receive the *National FUTURE FARMER*. It is a great source of valuable information. Keep up the good work!

Christopher Lapore
San Jose, California

Career Information

I like when the *National FUTURE FARMER* includes articles about careers in agriculture. I'm going to be a senior next year, and this information helps me in trying to decide which agricultural career I want to pursue. It's a hard choice, and every little bit of information helps.

Cass Hudson
Mansfield, Texas

Thank you

I want to send you a long over due thank you for the terrific article you did on me in the June/July ussue of The National FUTURE FARMER. It is an issue that I am able to look back at that encourages me and motivates me to want to have the desire to continue with my landscaping goals and dreams. I am still going to Green River Community College here in Washington. I am enrolled in the Japanese language class and am being challenged to speak, write and understand the many facets of the Japanese language. I plan on transfering to Washington State University in two years and major in agribusiness with an emphasis in international trade. I still plan on running a major landscape firm after graduating from WSU and hopefully work in international trade.

Ken Ericksen
Puyallup, Washington

European Farm Experience

I would like to thank the FFA for having a program for students to go abroad. Work Experience Abroad (WEA) has taught me a lot about the differences in American and European farming. I worked on a farm in Holland for three months. This is a great program. Everyone should experience it. I also think the ten-day agriculture tour of five countries was excellent.

Patricia Massop
Colby, Wisconsin

Name Change?

I have been reading about this proposed name change and I want to know why you are pushing it so hard? The problem isn't with the name, in my opinion, it's with communication.

Our chapter has people go to schools and talk about the FFA—what it is and what we do. We also do community service work and always have a person in official dress during freshman registration. The way I see it, if kids aren't joining because of the name, then chances are they have a superficial interest anyway. I know that our chapter, in the last four years, has had four 100-percent membership awards and four 10-plus chapter awards. If we'd spend more time selling the organization and less time selling ourselves then this problem could be resolved.

Jarrod Prater
Harrisburg, Oregon

Word from Germany

I am a participant in WEA (Work Experience Abroad) in West Germany. As I reread, for the 50th time, the June-July issue of The National FUTURE FARMER, the article, *My Turn*, with Terri Hanes really struck me. Being overseas I see how promotion of things really works. The first time I went to a soccer game in the village and I wore my FFA jacket, I was really noticed. I think that the members in the States must also look sharp and stand out from the crowd!

Kris Zierle
Gembeck, West Germany

Glad I Joined

Seven years ago when I joined FFA I had no idea what it was and I joined because my friends did.

My father tried to talk me out of it. Boy, I'm glad he didn't. FFA gave me a lot of enthusiasm and leadership skills. I recently graduated from Blackhawk Technical College in the Livestock and Dairy Farm Management Program.

I truly am a future farmer of America.

Michell Reese
Janesville, Wisconsin

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.

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Looking Ahead

More Beef to Japan

Iowa State University economists predict Japanese beef imports will rise over the next six years and the U.S. market share in Japan will increase. The predictions are based on a computer analysis of the 1988 Beef Market Access Agreement between the United States and Japan.

Under the agreement, the Japanese will import larger quantities of beef as the amount of beef allowed into Japan is slowly increased through 1990. After 1990, no limits on imported beef will be imposed by the Japanese government. Limits will be replaced with an import tariff. The initial tariff of 70 percent in 1991 will gradually be reduced to 50 percent in 1993.

Dermot Hayes, economist with ISU's Meat Export Research Center predicts, "Japanese beef imports (from the United States) will increase $132 million per year in the first three years as import quotas are phased out; Japanese beef imports will continue increasing at about the same rate for the following three years (1991-1993) as decreasing import tariffs come into effect."

Listening for Catfish

The crystal-clear sound of catfish is music to the ears of researchers at the National Center for Physical Acoustics headquartered at the University of Mississippi.

These scientists of sound have begun research in hopes of developing an acoustic, or sound-sensitive, system to size and count catfish in commercial ponds which is important in an aquaculture producer's marketing efforts and currently a labor-intensive project.

The only methods now available for counting and sizing catfish are sample netting before harvest and counting afterward.

If the sound-detection method proves feasible, researchers predict it will take three to four years to produce their first working model.

Easy Orange Peeling

Peeling an orange by hand usually means using a knife and fingernails, but U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists have enlisted some high-tech help for the citrus industry: a vacuum chamber and a food enzyme that loosen the peel from the fruit.

"Citrus processors can use this new technology to make a variety of consumer products, such as ready-to-eat oranges and grapefruit sections," said Robert A. Baker, a chemist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

The technology, vacuum infusion, is used to inject pectinase food enzyme into the gas spaces between the peel and fruit. "It may seem odd, but there are 100 to 200 milliliters of gases such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen and oxygen in a grapefruit," Baker said. "That's about enough to fill a tennis ball."

Once inside the gas spaces, the enzyme breaks down the inside of the peel and loosens it from the fruit. Scientists can then easily pull off the peel without leaving behind the white, fleshy part that usually sticks to the fruit, said Baker.

"The process produces clean, high-quality orange and grapefruit sections that can be placed in jars, canned, wrapped in plastic and sold as ready-to-eat peeled fruit, or used in salad bars. These are popular with consumers who want easy-to-prepare or ready-to-eat products," said Baker.

Botanist Dorris Clark retrieves packets of seeds in one of the ten cold storage rooms where about 200,000 individual seed samples are stored. *USDA Photo*

Seeds for the World

Seeds and cuttings of thousands of plants are supplied regularly to countries from Australia to Zimbabwe by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plant Introduction Office (PIO) at Beltsville, Maryland. It is the world's biggest clearinghouse for the international exchange of plant germplasm—the basic hereditary material in seeds and plant tissue.

Operated by USDA's Agricultural Research Service, the PIO is part of the agency's National Plant Germplasm System, which maintains the country's official collection of plants.

PIO Director George A. White said, "Our primary mission is making germplasm available worldwide to researchers who are investigating plant characteristics and developing new varieties."

"In 1987 alone, we shipped more than 55,560 plant varieties to 104 countries, plus additional varieties that were hand-carried to requesting scientists. Many other exchanges, perhaps thousands each year, are handled directly between scientists," says White.

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Advertising Offices

The National FUTURE FARMER
P.O. Box 15160
Alexandria, VA 22309 — 703-360-3600

The Brassett Company
5150 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90036 — 213-934-8502

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News In Brief

WCP Directors Named

Cheryl Helmeid of Blanchardville, Wisconsin and Darin Coert of Santa Paula, California, have been named Washington Conference Program (WCP) directors for 1989. Both Helmeid and Coert have served as WCP counselors for the past two summers. They are also past state officers and have both received their American Farmer Degrees.

States Boost Membership

The state of Washington reported the highest increase in FFA membership in the 1987-88 school year with 490 more members than the previous year. Three other states also reported substantial increases in membership. Virginia increased by 457, Louisana, 453 and Alabama by 414 members.

Besides Washington, Virginia, Louisiana and Alabama, eight other state associations—New Hampshire, New Mexico, Idaho, South Dakota, Massachusetts, District of Columbia, Nebraska and the Virgin Islands—noted increases in membership.

Overall, the national FFA membership dropped 2.8 percent or 11,763 members in 1988. Total membership for 1988 was 404,900 compared to 416,6633 in 1987.

Largest FFA Chapters

The W.B. Saul FFA Chapter in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is the largest FFA chapter in the United States with 616 members. The following is a list of the ten largest FFA chapters in the country according to membership rosters as of August 31, 1988. The largest chapters are typically from large urban schools and vocational technical schools.

Chapter Membership

W.B. Saul-Philadelphia, Pa.	616
Colquitte County-Moultrie, Ga.	420
Chicago Agriscience School-Chicago, Ill.	334
Yuba City-Calif.	324
Lowndes County-Valdosta, Ga.	322
Stonewall Jackson-Mechanicsville, Va.	321
Essex Ag & Tech Inst.-Hathorne, Mass.	310
Mountainview- Vancouver, Wash.	307
Tracy UHS-Calif.	288
Paulding County-Dallas, Ga.	286

Agriscience Conference

Over 200 high school agriculture instructors and other agricultural education professionals from 42 states attended a week-long National Conference on Agriscience and Emerging Occupations and Technologies held in Orlando, Florida, October 11-16.

The conference, themed "Today's Science, Tomorrow's Agriculture," offered instructional workshops in areas of biotechnology, animal science, water resources, integrated pest management and agricultural engineering for educators to see what new areas of agriculture are being taught in high school agriculture classrooms.

The conference participants also toured behind-the-scenes at Walt Disney World, Epcot Center, NASA, an aquaculture system and a citrus research center. The conference was presented by the National Council for Vocational and Technical Education in Agriculture (The Council).

Eastern Europe Opportunities

Three and six-month stays in Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria will be partially funded by the U.S. Information agency beginning in June 1989. This is an opportunity for FFA members to experience large scale farming on state owned farms. For more information, contact the International department at the National FFA Center, (703) 360-3600.

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5. The sweepstakes is open only to individuals who are at least 18 years of age and whose primary residence is within the United States. **Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited by law.**

6. Winners will be selected by random drawing on or around January 31, 1989 from among all entries received.

7. Federal and State Taxes on all prizes are solely the responsibility of the winner. Winners of trucks must be licensed drivers and are responsible for all licensing and title fees.

8. Prizes are not transferable. Only one prize per household or address. No cash substitutes allowed.

9 Odds of winning will depend on number of entries received.

10 Complete rules are available at authorized Chevrolet and Tony Lama retail locations, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope to Rules, Tony Lama-Chevy Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 82306, St. Paul, MN 55182. Postage on return envelope is not required for Washington and Vermont residents.

11. For a list of major prize winners, send a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope to Winners List, Tony Lama-Chevy Truck Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 82306, St Paul, MN. 55182.

AGRICULTURE'S LEADING EDGE FFA

Sam Harrel

Members of the Puxico, Missouri, got a bird's-eye view of Kansas City's skyline during the clear, cool days of this year's convention.

It was an exciting moment for Gene Starkey of Paris, Ohio, (above) as he was named national Soil and Water Management Proficiency winner.

Municipal Auditorium in downtown Kansas City (left) has been the hub of activity during many of the past 61 national FFA conventions. Over 23,000 FFA members, advisors and guests gathered in Kansas City for this year's convention.

On the Cover

Wesley Davis, Florida FFA president, makes a point during debate over an FFA constitutional amendment during the 61st National FFA Convention. Photo by Michael Wilson.

CONVENTION '88

Convention Delegates Pass 18 Constitutional Amendments

By Andrew Markwart

National FFA President Kelli Evans rapped the gavel on the podium late Wednesday afternoon in the Municipal Auditorium marking the end of one of the most important delegate business sessions in the history of the FFA organization.

In this special session of the 61st National FFA Convention, held November 10-12 in Kansas City, Missouri, the delegate body was asked to consider and vote on 19 constitutional amendments that had been recommended by the National Study Panel on the Constitution and Bylaws, a special committee appointed by the FFA Board of Directors two years ago.

Eighteen of the 19 proposed constitutional amendments were passed by the 113 delegates. The amendments ranged from changing the official name of the organization to allowing seventh and eighth grade students full membership in the FFA.

Debate over the amendments was characterized by pointed but constructive discussion. Much of what the delegates heard on the convention floor were positions that had been stated in past years during other FFA events. Debate ranged on most issues from the need to change FFA's image to preserving FFA's traditions.

Amendments Explained

In summary, the passed amendments will change the organization's name from "Future Farmers of America" to "National FFA Organization." Chapters and state associations may use the letters "FFA" or the words "Future Farmers of America," whichever they desire.

The words "vocational agriculture" will be replaced with the words "agricultural education" throughout the constitution and rest of the organization, including the FFA emblem.

The term "Supervised Occupational Experience" or SOE will be replaced with "Supervised Agricultural Experience" or SAE.

Seventh and eighth grade students will be included in the definition of secondary agricultural education programs, allowing them full FFA membership.

State associations have the option to admit these new members.

The word "Farmer" will be replaced by "FFA" in all active and honorary degrees of membership.

Chapter FFA degree candidates will be required to have at least $150 earned and invested or at least 45 hours in excess of scheduled class time and plans for continued growth in an SAE.

The dollar amount will increase for the State FFA Degree candidates from $500 to $1000 and required hours of work will be reduced from 600 to 300.

The State FFA Degree quota system will be abolished and states will be allowed to determine how many degrees to award.

American FFA Degree candidates will be allowed to qualify based on a combination of dollar and hour criteria as allowed for the chapter and state degrees.

The number of American FFA Degree candidates a state can submit beyond their quota will be changed to ten from five.

State associations and chapters may now elect more than six officers.

The only amendment not passed by the delegates would have provided that each state get two national convention delegates plus one additional delegate for each 5,000 members or major fraction thereof above the first 5,000.

According to Larry Case, national FFA advisor, the timetable for implementing the amendments will be set at the January Board of Directors meeting. A major consideration in the phase-in of these changes is the economic impact of changing the words "vocational agriculture" and "farmer" on various plaques, jackets, awards and other items carrying the official emblem.

Dies must be recast to accommodate the new terms, which will cost time and money. The Supply Service also has an inventory of materials with the old terminology that will have to be sold, liquidated or discarded.

The *National FUTURE FARMER*, *Between Issues* advisor newsletter and other FFA publications will carry information throughout the coming year regarding the phasing-in of the amendments.

Convention Winners

Since the delegate session took place on Wednesday, the constitutional amend-

Clint Oliver of Reidsville, Georgia, (left) was named Star Farmer of America and Christopher Bledsoe of Eldon, Missouri, was named Star Agribusinessman of America. Photos by author except where noted.

ments were voted on before the convention officially started. The next three days offered a full slate of national winners, renowned speakers and performers and special events that have become a trademark of the national FFA conventions.

National FFA President Kelli Evans and her officer team of Kevin Ochsner, Terri Hames, Mickey McCall, Dunn LeDoux and Bill Hollis presided over convention sessions and participated in a number of other convention events.

Gary Todd of Union, Nebraska, has the distinction of being named as the first national winner of the Agriscience Student Recognition program. His agriscience project explored the use of electrostatic spraying to increase the accuracy and effectiveness of chemical application.

Clint Oliver of Reidsville, Georgia, was named Star Farmer of America and Christopher Bledsoe of Eldon, Missouri, was named Star Agribusinessman of America. Oliver has a farming enterprise consisting of 150 crossbred sows, 1,700 feeder pigs, 25 feeder calves and 60 goats. Bledsoe, along with his brother, own and operate Bledsoe Trucking, Inc. Together, they travel over 300,000 miles a year delivering cattle to and from markets.

The 1988 Agriscience Teacher of the Year is Leeman Charles Parker of Selma, California. Parker transformed an average high school agriculture department into one of the state's model programs and is now working to implement a state-wide agriscience program by helping write the CORE Agriscience, Advanced Plant and Animal Science and Advanced Agricultural Business Management curricula. Since the Agriscience Teacher of the Year award began in 1986, all three winners have been from California.

Chad Luthro of Moorland, Iowa, was named national winner of the Computers in Agriculture program. Five finalists had waited since the Computers in Agriculture seminar held in mid-August for the announcement of the national winner.

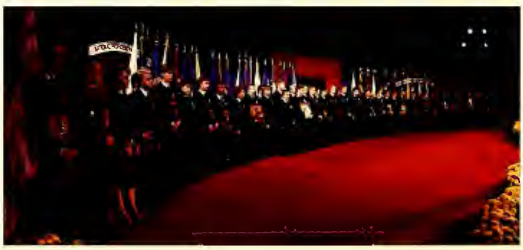
Joe Downey, 1988 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Advisory Board chairman, announced Thursday night that the National FFA Foundation once again set a fund-raising record, raising over $3.3

Fourteen-year-old Venus Campos of Lutz, Florida, (above) dazzled the audience with her chorus solo of Whitney Houston's "One Moment in Time."

After 20 years with the National FFA Band, Roger Heath (left) retired as director.

The floor of Municipal Auditorium (above, right) was the scene of historic changes made to the FFA constitution.

All 29 national proficiency winners and prepared public speaking finalists (right) gathered on stage to be recognized for their achievements Friday night.



million. The 1989 chairman is Nicholas Babson, president and chief executive officer of Babson Bros. Co./SURGE. He announced the the 1989 Foundation theme, "Building Tomorrow's Leaders...Say Yes to FFA."

The American Farmer Degree was bestowed upon 702 FFA members. Distinguished Service Citations were awarded to NAVISTAR International Transportation Corporation, Chrysler Corporation–Dodge Trucks and DEKALB Genetics Corporation for their support of the FFA.

Several new audio-visuals premiered at the convention including "A World Journey," featuring FFA international programs and Made for Excellence and Washington Conference Program shows.

Alumni

The National FFA Alumni Association held its 17th annual convention in conjunction with the National FFA Convention. Jim Sipiorski of Green Bay, Wisconsin, was elected as the 1988-1989 National FFA Alumni president.

Nearly $26,200 was raised at the 3rd Annual FFA Alumni Auction held Wednesday, Nov. 9. The highest selling item was a 1989 blue and gold Silverado Chevrolet pickup truck with gold stripes and official FFA emblem displayed on the side donated by Chevrolet. The truck sold for $14,350 to Eugene and Nancy Adler of Bowling Green, Ohio.

Over 360 items were donated to the Alumni auction this year. •••

Want to Know More?

Each FFA chapter was mailed a *Convention PROCEEDINGS* and a complete set of the daily convention newspaper, *FFA TIMES* at the end of the convention. These publications contain more details and a complete listing of national winners, along with the retiring addresses of the 1987-88 national officers.

Erik Smith of New Albany, Indiana, (bottom, center) checks details during the National FFA Nursery/Landscape judging finals.

Miss America Gretchen Elizabeth Carlson (below) met with hundreds of FFA members Wednesday.

Keith Kreeger

Sam Harrel

Olympic gymnast Kevin Davis demonstrated the pommel horse event for the convention audience.

New American Royal Student Ambassador Program

The 40-year-old tradition of the American Royal Queen contest is giving way to a new Student Ambassador program that will include both young men and young women.

With the number of queen candidates dropping in recent years, the American Royal Executive Committee, in cooperation with the FFA, decided that a new competition was needed that would address the scholarship needs of both male and female FFA members.

Requirements for the new Student Ambassador competition state that applicants must be 18 or older and be an active FFA member. They must also currently be enrolled in or planning to enroll an accredited college or university.

Each state may submit one male and one female candidate on or before September 1 of each year. Each state will be responsible for selecting two Student Ambassador candidates and the state leader will determine the procedure for selection of those candidates.

Student Ambassadors will be judged on academic achievement, public speaking, civic and extracurricular leadership and knowledge and appreciation of agriculture and agribusiness.

According Carol Pendleton, coordinator of the new program, winners will receive substantial scholarships and national recognition as an agriculture student leader, build contacts with agriculture and agribusiness leaders throughout the nation, appear at American Royal events, the national FFA convention and other agricultural shows and gain experience in public relations through media interviews in Kansas City.

The first Ambassadors will be named in 1989.

Anyone interested in the program should contact Carol and Jim Pendleton, chairpersons of the American Royal Student Ambassador Program at the American Royal Association c/o Student Ambassador Program, 1701 American Royal Court, Kansas City, Missouri 64102.

Mike Wilson

Nicole Sittner of Harrisburg, South Dakota, is the 1988 American Royal Queen. She is the last to hold that title.

Mike Wilson

Jerry Clower delighted the convention crowd with his humor.

Danny Grellner of Kingfisher, Oklahoma, (left) won the prepared public speaking contest. Steven Gibson of Toone, Tennessee, won the extemporaneous speaking contest.

Over 17 hours of the convention was televised on satellite station RFD-TV. The entire convention was rebroadcast on Thanksgiving Day.

A record-setting 349 booths lined the National Agricultural Career Show in Bartle Hall.

Announcing the 1988-89 National FFA Officers

The 1988-89 National FFA Officers are, left to right: Jeff Isom, western region vice president; Jaye Hamby, southern region vice president; Warren Boerger, eastern region vice president; Brad Chambliss, central region vice president; Jeff Johnson, secretary; and Dana Soukup, president.

For the second year in a row, a national officer candidate from Nebraska has been named national FFA president–Dana Soukup this year and Kelli Evans in 1987. The following are profiles of Dana and his fellow national officers.

Dana Soukup
President

Dana Soukup, 20, of Spencer, Nebraska, served as state president and chapter president, secretary and treasurer of the Spencer FFA Chapter. He participated in leadership workshops, public speaking and judging contests, and received a silver rating in the National FFA Livestock contest.

Soukup's SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) program included sheep, beef and swine production. He also worked for a market, for local farmers and as a park caretaker. He was recently employed by the Nebraska Department of Agricultural Education as a leadership assistant. Soukup attends the University of Nebraska–Lincoln where he is a sophomore majoring in agribusiness. He plans a career in agribusiness.

Jeff Johnson
Secretary

Jeff Johnson, 19, of Dover, Florida, served as state president and as district president and vice president of the Plant City FFA Chapter. In 1987 he was the southern region FFA Prepared Public Speaking Contest winner as well as state winner of the Nursery Operations proficiency award. He was a member of state-winning parliamentary procedure, forestry and horticulture teams and was named Florida's Outstanding FFA Member.

Johnson's SAE program included swine, commercial steers and nursery plant production. He also has worked for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a public relations assistant. Johnson is a sophomore in agricultural economics at the University of Florida. He plans a career in agribusiness economics and marketing.

Brad Chambliss
Central Region Vice President

Brad Chambliss, 20, of Hardinsburg, Kentucky, served as president of his chapter, region and state FFA organizations. He received three state proficiency awards and was named national winner in diversified livestock production. He received a silver award in the National FFA Livestock contest.

The Breckinridge County FFA member's SAE program includes corn, hay, tobacco and soybeans as well as a registered Hereford cattle and Suffolk sheep operation. Chambliss is a junior in pre-veterinary studies at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. After graduation he hopes to establish a veterinary practice, specializing in embryo transfer and biotechnology research, while continuing to manage his Hereford cattle herd.

Warren Boerger
Eastern Region Vice President

Warren Boerger, 20, of Irwin, Ohio, served as state treasurer, and as president, treasurer and assistant treasurer of the Fairbanks FFA Chapter. He participated in extemporaneous public speaking, parliamentary procedure, and a variety of other leadership and judging contests.

Boerger's SAE program includes dairy cattle, swine, corn, hay and soybean production. In addition, Boerger has worked at Ohio's state FFA camp, state FFA center and with an agricultural business. Boerger attends The Ohio State University where he is a junior with a dual major in agricultural education and agricultural economics. He plans to obtain his doctorate in agricultural education and to pursue a career in agribusiness or the teaching profession.

Jaye Hamby
Southern Region Vice President

Jaye Hamby, 20, of Benton, Tennessee, served as state president as well as president and vice president in both his district and chapter. He participated in extemporaneous public speaking at the local, state and national levels and received a national gold emblem in the livestock contest. He is a member of the Polk FFA Chapter.

Hamby's SAE program included 23 head of purebred sheep and 21 acres of pasture and hay production.

He also worked at the U.S. Forest Service in forest and wildlife management and is employed by Conasauga River Lumber Company. Hamby is majoring in agricultural education at the University of Tennessee. Upon completion of college, he plans to teach high school agriculture and to continue farming part-time.

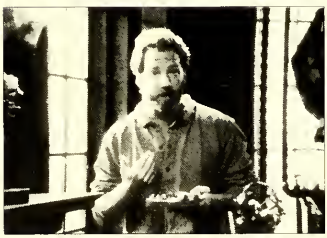
Jeffrey Isom
Western Region Vice President

Jeffrey Isom, 19, of Fruitland, Idaho, served as state and district president and held offices in the Fruitland FFA Chapter. He was the western region winner of both prepared and extemporaneous public speaking contests and won state awards in creed speaking and parliamentary procedure. He was also on a gold award team in the National Farm Business Management contest.

Isom's SAE program included Hereford cattle, alfalfa hay and pasture production. He attends Brigham Young University where he is majoring in international relations. Upon completion of college, he plans to work as an international trade relations specialist. •••

Who's Behind Those TV Commercials?

Producers take an active role in advertising and promotion



This year, beef commercials will feature a new and larger group of celebrities including, from top, country singer Reba McEntire, basketball star Larry Bird, model Kim Alexis and actor Timothy Busfield. Not pictured are actress Lauren Bacall, basketball star Michael Cooper, comic actresses Madeline Kahn and Julia Louis Dreyfuss. Olympic Gold Medalist Peggy Fleming, left, represents pork producers.

By Julie M. Hines

You've seen the commercials; James Garner cooks his beef kabobs on the grill and leaves the tomatoes for the salad; Willard Scott coaches you how to "Build the Perfect Cheeseburger" and possibly the biggest hit of all brought the California Raisins dancing and singing Motown songs into our living rooms.

What all of these commercials have in common is that they not only promote the goodness of certain food products, but they were paid for by the producers who grow and raise the products.

A number of agriculture commodity groups have entered the advertising and promotion arena recently. By securing big-name talent and prime television, radio and magazine spots, these producer groups are reaching millions more Americans with their messages and leaving a lasting impression with consumers.

This was an important year for two meat industries—pork and beef. Both were able to continue advertising and promotional campaigns because producers voted on and passed checkoff referendums.

By passing referendums, beef and pork producer checkoff dollars will be invested in the areas of promotion, research and consumer education.

Pork

In September, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that 77.5 percent of the producers who cast their ballots on the pork referendum voted to continue the program. A simple majority was needed in order to continue the checkoff program.

Passage of the referendum on the checkoff means all pork producers will contribute fairly to checkoff-funded programs. No refunds are available.

Under the 100 percent Pork Producer Checkoff, which went into effect November 1, 1986, producers contribute 25 cents of every $100 received when a hog is sold. The money is collected and disbursed by the National Pork Board, which consists of one importer and 14 pork producers.

Nearly 70 percent of the $25.6 million generated by the checkoff has been invested in promotion campaigns such as "Pork-The Other White Meat" and the development of the "America's Cut" premium boneless pork chop.

Peggy Fleming and nationally-known meat cutting specialist Merle Ellis serve the pork industry as its spokespeople.

Fleming has promoted pork for almost two years at various events such as the World Pork Expo, the American Pork Congress and the Food Marketing Institute Show.

Beef

In May, beef producers voted on a similar referendum requiring importers and all producers, large and small, to invest $1 per head.

Like the National Pork Board, beef checkoff funds are controlled by The Beef Board. The Board is made up of 108 producers and five importers with a 20-producer Operating Committee developing checkoff programs. For 1989, the Beef Board has budgeted $30 million for promotion, which includes advertising, retail and food service promotion.

Producer-members of state beef councils can keep up to 50 cents of every dollar collected to invest in state-run promotion and research programs, or send additional funds to support the national program.

Sales promotions like "Build a Perfect Cheeseburger" and the "Share in the Gold" Olympic sweepstakes were also made possible through the funds collected through the checkoff program.

Pork and beef producers throughout the U.S. expect the checkoff programs to help broaden consumers' perceptions of their product and in turn, increase consumption.

With producers taking an active role in marketing their own products, the public is bound to see popular faces touting more agricultural products this year. •••

Maybe you, a handful of others, and new Levi's® 557™ jeans. They're cut a little roomier. A little longer for your boots. A little wider in the pockets. And with enough belt loops to keep your jeans where they belong—even in the roughest territory.

There's a Slim Fit 557 too, for the best fit a lanky cowboy ever had.

It isn't the easiest way to make a living. Take a little comfort where you can.™

There are about 5000 places to buy yourself a pair of Levi's 557 jeans. Call 1-800-227-5600 to find one.

557™
LEVI'S
FOR COWBOYS

National BOAC Winners Named

Judges select Elizabeth Morgan top individual and Marion County, West Virginia, top chapter

Photos by Andrew Markwart

Achievement in Volunteerism winner Elizabeth Morgan is accompanied on the U.S. Capitol steps by Robert Bridwell, first runner-up (left) and Joe Premo, second runner-up.

It was the leadership of Elizabeth Morgan that played a crucial role in establishing a wildlife rehabilitation center in her community of Raton, New Mexico. For that effort and for contributing in a number of other local projects, Morgan was named Achievement in Volunteerism winner at the Sixth National FFA Conference on Community Development, held October 1-5 in Washington, D.C.

Morgan and fellow Raton chapter members cleared a four and one-half mile ski trail in New Mexico's Sugarite State Park and constructed 65 picnic tables for the park campgrounds. By far, their largest undertaking was the construction and operation of the wildlife rehabilitation center for the state of New Mexico and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The facility is also being used as a laboratory for a new wildlife science class being offered that the high school. Due to the generous donations of community businesses, the wildlife center was built with expenses to the chapter of only $400, while its net worth is nearly $30,000. For a complete story of Raton's wildlife center, see "Wild Animals Find a Home at FFA Ranch," on page 24, August-September issue of the *National* FUTURE FARMER.

First runner-up for the Achievement in Volunteerism award was Robert Bridwell, West Muskingum FFA Chapter, Zanesville, Ohio. Second runner-up was Joe Premo, Northern Adirondack FFA Chapter, Ellenburg Depot, New York.

Top Chapter

For the second time in four years, the Marion County, West Virginia FFA Chapter was named as the National Building Our American Communities (BOAC) chapter award winner. Marion County has won the Eastern Region chapter BOAC title four of the past five years.

Their project for 1987-88 evolved around the theme: "Projecting the Mountaineer Spirit." Their goal was to stimulate the local economy through increased tourism business. The chapter edged closer to that goal by constructing a tourist service center, restoring a historic log cabin and developing a 400 seat amphitheater at Pricketts Fort State Park. For their story, see page 38, October-November issue of the *National FUTURE FARMER*.

The three other regional chapter BOAC winners were Westminster FFA Chapter, Colorado - western region; Bartlett FFA Chapter, Bartlett, Tennessee - southern region and Ravenna FFA Chapter, Ravenna, Nebraska - central region.

Representing the top four BOAC chapters are, left to right, Steve McKeon, Ravenna, Nebraska; Shaun Kuhn, Marion County, West Virginia; Jeff Stampfl, Westminster, Colorado and Wayne Holmes, Bartlett, Tennessee.

The Conference

Each state winning BOAC chapter sends the student leader who excelled in working on their project–usually the BOAC chairperson–to the conference. That student also competes for the Achievement in Volunteerism Award.

The state Achievement in Volunteerism winners and their advisors spent the week attending workshops and touring the nation's capital. Both individual and chapter national winners were announced at the awards luncheon on Capital Hill in the Cannon House Office Building Caucus Room.

The conference theme was "Leadership for Changing Communities - A Framework for Learning." Kickoff speaker was Sam Brownback, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture and past national FFA officer.

Other conference speakers included Senator Patrick Leahy, Vermont, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee; Representative Kika de la Garza, Texas, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee; Richard E. Lyng, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; Dr. Bonnie Guiton, Assistant Secretary, Office for Vocational & Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education; and Rick Malir, past national FFA president.

Bill Hollis, national FFA vice president, worked with the students throughout the conference. The expense-paid conference is funded by RJR Nabisco Foundation, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. •••

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Americans At Their Best.

Life At Yangling

A

Chinese agriculture students see education as their ticket to a better life.

By Bao-wen Zhang

Farm wife Qiaoling Zhang slowly nods as Zhang Fung Hu tells her that her chickens are losing their tail-feathers because they lack a trace mineral in their diet. Consultant Hu isn't a paid professional. Rather, he is an agriculture student in China, training to be an animal science technician.

Hu is realizing his life-long dream of an advanced

B

C

A Chinese agriculture student Zhang Fung Hu with his parents outside their home in Wuquan, Shaanxi, China, a village of 200 people.

B Hu and his father check their watermelon crop. The plastic allows them to get an accelerated germination.

C Hu watches as his mother makes yarn outside their home. Chinese like to do most of their work outside, even in the winter.

education with the promise of a good job.

Chinese students must apply for admission into agriculture high schools and the requirements are stiff. Hu studied from 5:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. every day for four years before he took and passed the entrance examination. His studies were interrupted only by wheat and corn harvest.

"Now I have time for music and sports, which I didn't have before," says Hu. "And the studying is easier."

China's agricultural education program is somewhat different than that in the U.S. Hu's agricultural high school in Yangling, located in central China, has 1,200 students ages 16 to 22, all studying agriculture. One-third of the students are girls. The school has 180 teachers.

Chinese teenagers at the age of 16 have three options: they can go to an advanced high school in preparation for college, attend a vocational/technical high school, or wait for China's socialist government to find them a job (which could take years).

Only five to six percent of the students who take the rigorous examinations for advanced high school or vo-tech school actually pass and are admitted. Those who don't pass can try again or wait for a job.

Based on his test score, Hu was admitted to study animal science. Hu's school offers five areas of study: animal science, agronomy, economics and forestry, vegetables and silk worm production.

When students graduate, the government gets them a job right away. "That's the main reason students go to vo-tech school," says Hu's veterinary teacher Mr. Da Wei Huang. "They'll get jobs at county or town veterinary stations, breeding stations, meat processing plants or animal feed mills," says Huang. "They'll work as technicians and have several workers underneath them."

None of the graduates of China's vo-tech schools or agricultural colleges return to the farm. Farm life is hard and poor. A higher education is their ticket out—a chance to escape.

At school, Hu's day begins at 6:30 a.m. He and his seven roommates in his dorm room wake up for morning exercise, usually running.

Breakfast is at 7 a.m. No one can oversleep because one of the students on the floor has the duty to make sure everyone is up. Breakfast consists of rice porridge, steamed bread, unsweetened fried doughnuts and tofu milk. At 8:10 a.m. students head for their classrooms for a half-hour study hall. The students have four classes in the morning and break for lunch at noon.

"Before I was accepted into vo-ag school, I had no time for anything else but studying."

Food processing is the students' favorite subject because they get to eat their experiments; least favorite subject English, which is required all four years.

For lunch they eat rice, noodles, steamed bread and three vegetable or meat dishes and eat the sameagain for supper.

Students have free time until 2 p.m. "I usually play sports or talk with my friends in our room," Hu says. Study hall begins at 2 p.m. and ends at 3:40 p.m. Then the students play basketball, volleyball, badminton or ping pong until supper at 5:30 p.m.

Studying usually occupies the evening until 10:30 p.m. when the electricity in the dormitory automatically shuts off.

Students have class six days a week, including Saturday.

Social life is rather limited in Yangling, a town of 23,000 people with only one movie theater. Students can watch TV in the school's student lounge which show programs from the two government-run stations in China.

Dating is forbidden! At dances, boys dance with boys and girls dance with girls—something American high schoolers find amazing.

Students usually don't go home on weekends, either. Hu's home is in the nearest village of all the students and it takes him an hour by bicycle to get there. The student from the farthest village lives 930 miles from the school. All students come from Shaanxi province. Most students go home twice a year—four weeks in the winter during semester break and seven weeks in the summer.

"I really enjoy school and would rather be here than at home," Hu says. "In my village of 200 people there are few kids my age."

"Before I was accepted into vo-ag school, there was heavy pressure to study hard, so I had no time for anything else but studying. In fact, my father wanted so much for me to get my education, he did all the chores on our small farm of half an acre (a typical farm size in China)."

"But now I can enjoy life more and can look forward to a good job when I graduate. My parents are really proud of me. In the future, I hope I can help my country improve and adapt to advanced technology," Hu says. •••

(Editor's note: Bao-wen Zhang is an English teacher at China's Northwest Agricultural University and studied ag education at the University of Minnesota for one and-a-half years. He is now back in China and thought American students would like to know about their Chinese counterparts.)

Farmers are drying their wheat on the sidewalk of 20-year-old agriculture student Zhang Fung Hu's high school administration building.

Photos by Elizabeth Curry Williams

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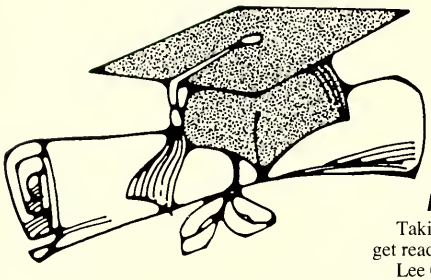
Research Shows FFA Experience an Advantage in College and Career



By Eric Williams

You've probably known it for some time, but now there's data to back up the assumption: It pays to take high school agriculture and join the FFA.

A group of separate studies obtained by *The National FUTURE FARMER* shows that students who complete high school agriculture courses and participate in FFA can look forward to better chances at getting jobs, higher-than-average pay, more job stability and greater opportunity to prove their leadership.

Not all the statistical data dealt solely with high school agriculture students and FFA members, and the studies were sometimes limited to students from a particular school. But the message was still clear.

For example, Gary Varella and James Leising of the University of California, Davis, found the unemployment rate in Yolo County, California, ranged from 9.2 to 10.3 percent during their particular study. Yet graduates who had taken agriculture classes at four area high schools had an unemployment rate of 1.9 percent.

Likewise, a 1987 study of Missouri's 1981 high school graduates found that "65 percent of the vocational graduates reported working in October 1981 (within six months of graduation). This percentage rose each year to 79 percent in 1985. The percentage of the non-vocational sample showed an increase from 47 percent to 74 percent during the sam period."

> ***"...vocational students have a 15-20 percent annual salary advantage over non-vocational graduates."***

Ready for College

Taking ag classes isn't a bad way to get ready for college, either.

Lee Cole, a professor at Oregon State University, was tired of hearing how great college preparation programs were for high school students, when it seemed those who took high school agriculture did just as well at the university level – maybe better.

Cole recently completed a study with David Bokor, who teaches high school agriculture in Crescent City, California.

Cole and Bokor found that students who took a high school agriculture curriculum graduated from OSU's College of Agriculture Sciences with virtually the same grade-point averages as those who took the college prep program. The agriculture students also felt their high school classes prepared them well for college.

Those who took agriculture courses earned their bachelor's degrees more quickly, Cole found, and they changed their majors less often.

Of the OSU graduates studied, students with the high school agriculture background finished college in 4.5 years, while the students with the college preparatory courses were done in 5.2 years. High school students who enrolled in "general education" courses ended up spending an average 6.3 years in college before earning a degree.

Those OSU students prepared with high school agriculture switched majors at a 31-percent rate of change, versus a 76-percent rate for those with the college prep background.

Research out of Montana State University backs up that assessment. According to data from MSU Assistant Professor Van Shelhamer and graduate assistant Lynn Richie Latham, 66 percent of the Montana and Wyoming college students questioned, who had taken high school agriculture, didn't change their majors at the collegiate level. Further, 54 percent of those former ag students who did switch degree pursuits did not start out in agriculture.

Shelhamer also found that 56 percent of Montana's and 46 percent of Wyoming's high school grads who had taken the high school agriculture curriculum majored in agriculture in college.

Though Cole's and Shelhamer's assessments weren't compiled in exactly the same manner, they show the steadiness, persistence and aptitude common to those who take a core of high school agriculture courses. They also emphasize that it isn't just a single study which has come up with the positive conclusions.

Cole said a student's aspirations, desire and support and guidance from home determine how well one does at college as much as curriculum.

The Job Market

For those ready for the job market, Cole's study found that agriculturally-based students were more confident that their high school efforts would help them in the real world.

The Follow Up Now, Class of 81 (FUN '81) study, which tracked Missouri high school grads of that year, determined the same thing. "Vocational graduates are more confident of their ability to compete for employment after high school graduation than non-vocational graduates," the group of Missouri educators and scholars said. "After high school graduation, 91 percent of the vocational seniors and 82 percent of the non-vocational seniors thought they would be able to compete 'very well' or 'fairly well' for a job."

Shelhamer drew similar conclusions. "Based on the success of vocational agriculture graduates at the post-secondary

level, it appears that agriculture education has kept pace and is in tune with what students need," Shelhamer said.

Taking strictly a 1980s, upwardly mobile point of view, vocational education means more money in your pockets. Missouri's FUN '81 report didn't separate agriculture from other vocational training, but its findings were still staggering.

According to FUN '81, vocational students have "a 15 percent to 20 percent annual salary advantage over non-vocational graduates." That may sound hard to believe, but it's true.

FUN '81 researchers double-checked the data they acquired against Employment Security files and the answer was the same, "again showing that the vocational sample consistently maintained its salary advantage."

Better Workers

If FFA members are paid more, it may be because they're harder workers.

Bob Broeckelman, an officer with Farm Credit Services in Kansas, used his doctoral thesis to find common threads FCS could use in hiring top-notch officers. Broeckelman cited research which said FFA "members spent more hours at work each week than did non-members."

Taken another step, the reason they earn more and put in longer hours is former FFA members working in agriculture like their jobs. Steve Fraze and Gary Briers, of Texas Tech, found through research that the more involved students were in FFA, the higher their job satisfaction.

Briers said they attached number values to things such as being a local or state officer, participating in judging and parliamentary procedure contests and so on. One troubling aspect Briers and Fraze found was that those with high levels of FFA participation who were *not* employed in ag or related fields had the lowest job satisfaction.

Briers said further study on why this is happening is needed, but he had some ideas.

"You don't get to be a state FFA officer without having something on the ball," he said. Briers said peers, parents and even vocational agriculture teachers may be telling some students "You're too smart to go into ag. You ought to be a lawyer, a doctor."

But, Briers added, "They're frustrated. Their roots, their background, their success as a youngster was in ag-based activities."

His work with Fraze found that FFA involvement did increase a student's chance to eventually be employed in agriculture. Briers' assessment that FFA members are "on the ball" is correct, according to further work done at Ohio State University. The study looked at seniors from high schools in Middle Tennessee.

Cliff Ricketts and L.H. Newcomb concluded that high school agriculture students/FFA members "possess significantly more leadership and personal development abilities than non-vocational agriculture students."

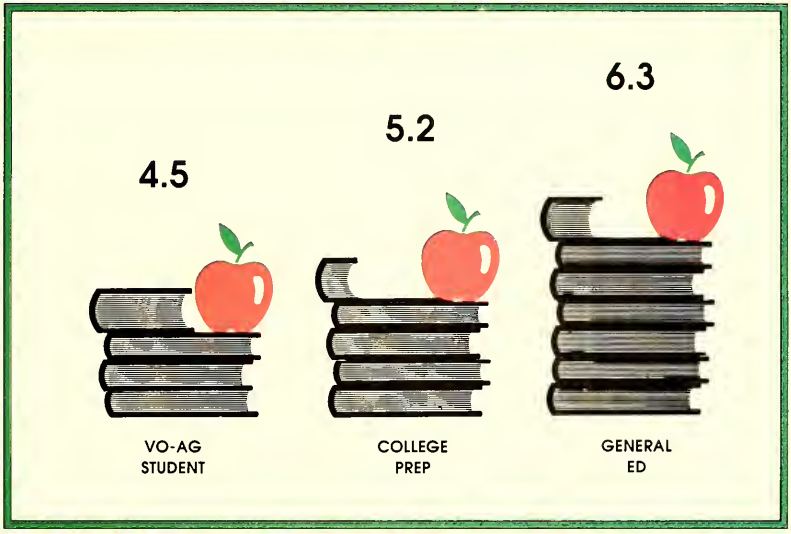
They broke FFA chapters into "superior" and "non-superior." Interestingly, there was little difference in the leadership and personal development abilities of FFA members from the two categories.

Their research also pointed out that "chapter activeness" has more effect on those qualities than does "activeness at district or regional, state and national levels." It also noted that scores were low in all groups tested.

Still, the bottom line was that "The FFA should be used as a vehicle to strengthen the availability of opportunities for students in vocational agriculture," Ricketts and Newcomb said.

Broeckelman, a former FFA executive secretary in Kansas, found those who have that leadership background are a better-than average bet to make good FCS officers.

Contrary to a previous hypothesis, Broeckelman wrote that FCS trainees who participated in activities –particularly FFA and 4-H – scored higher on classroom tests taken by FCS trainees. Broeckelman felt strongly enough to suggest to FCS that "more emphasis should be placed on hiring new loan officer trainees who have participated in high school and college leadership development activities." •••



Average number of years it took for Oregon State students to complete bachelor's degree based on high school background.

FFA Chapter Coordinates Fire Relief

By Eric Williams

Photos by Sylvan Susag

Augusta members unload the first shipment of hay weighing 250 tons.

Even during a crisis, a bureaucracy moves rather slowly.

But an FFA chapter can jump in quickly.

That's just part of what several Montana residents learned in late September when the State Department of Agriculture called on the 10-member Augusta FFA Chapter to help local ranchers burned-out by a wildfire.

The Canyon Creek fire, which started in the Forest Service's Scapegoat Wilderness, blew up on a hot Indian summer night, burning 180,000 acres in eight hours.

A state legislator estimated ranchers' losses at more than $7 million, much of that in timber. But more than 100 head of cattle were consumed and tons of hay were left in ashes. "This just shot their fall grazing," said Augusta FFA Advisor Sylvan Susag. Instead of beginning to feed hay to their cattle January 1, some Augusta ranchers had to start October 1—and they did not have the feed to do it.

The hay is expected to reach 4,000 cattle.

According to some of those involved, the days immediately following the blaze were filled with confusion over what was to be done, and immediate help wasn't in sight. "We didn't know heads from tails," one rancher said.

Keith Kelly, Montana's director of agriculture, got an idea. Though keeping an eye on the project, Kelly handed it over to the Augusta FFA.

"I couldn't help with that project, being in Helena (the capital). The FFA chapter knew who needed the hay and they knew where the cattle were," Kelly said.

Things picked up. Pronto.

"I started this on Thursday, and by Friday afternoon we had the first load of hay up there," Kelly said.

Beth Thompson, chapter president, said the members became "the middle man," but in a helpful, not profitable way.

Kelly saw to it the chapter was given an unsecured $25,000 loan to start the hay rolling. That money was later secured by the Forest Service which is paying for some of the hay, fencing, timber and pasture seeding primarily because the blaze started on public land.

In what looks to be a complex legal battle, ranchers and the Forest Service disagree on when and how much the agency should pay, making the FFA chapter's quick response all the more important.

Advisor Susag said the chapter is working with the Forest Service to locate hay in the drought-marred west, arrange transportation, then help unload the semi trailers. Thompson said "We had to look at who is selling hay for the best price" and survey freight costs to make the limited resources stretch to as many ranchers as possible. With the drought, hay is costing about $80 a ton.

Susag said the first shipment weighed-in at 250 tons, and the second batch consisted of 1,000 tons. He estimated about ten ranchers and some 4,000 cattle will be aided by the chapter's work and there still won't be nearly enough hay.

Chapter members are also helping the Forest Service assess the damage done to hay, pasture and fences. It is hoped, Susag said, that next spring the Augusta chapter will help renovate pastures and replace some of the 140 miles of burned fences.

The Forest Service is "talking about re-seeding some of this pasture land," Susag said. "We're hoping to get involved in figuring what mixes would be best."

Community Crisis

While chapter members will get some valuable experience, no one lost sight of the fact that being able to help neighbors during what Kelly called a "community crisis" was the central element. "Just beautiful," were the words rancher Don Converse used to describe the FFA chapter's efforts. Converse, one of those to suffer substantial losses, said "Everybody cooperated and pitched-in. You never heard an unkind word, and not one of those kids complained."

Chapter president Thompson said, "It's a way to thank them. They're always putting on a judging, or letting us use their facilities."

Susag said, "It was a need that had to be filled. I've gotten feedback from the community; it was really appreciated."

Kelly stressed the FFA chapter was the main cog in getting hay to hungry cows in time. Sometimes, particularly when there are multiple agencies involved, "the hands of the bureaucracy get so tied up, no one can move." •••

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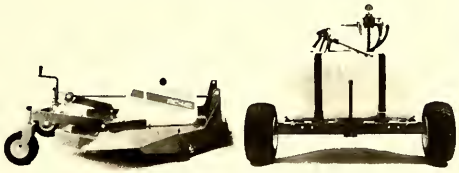

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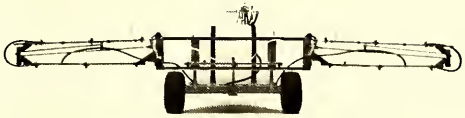

Yamaha boom sprayer.

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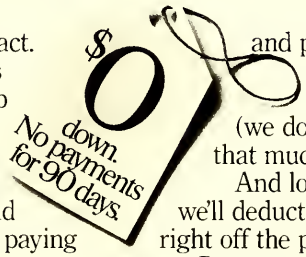

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The New Ag Professionals:
Meat Science—A Critical Step Between Farm Gate and Dinner Plate

By Richard Dunn

The average American eats between 75 and 80 sausages each year including hot dogs, bratwurst, half smokes, polish sausage and kielbasa. All these billions of pounds of beef, pork or poultry must be processed, packaged and delivered to consumers. Of the many professionals that make the journey from farm to you possible, one of the most important is the meat scientist, who insures that the ingredients used to make those products are wholesome and conform to processing standards.

Scott Brackebusch, a former Auburn, Illinois, FFA member is the meat scientist responsible for the quality of all raw materials that enter Oscar Mayer's Chicago plant. This plant, standing near the site of Oscar Mayer's original store, produces 19 percent of the company's products. With over 700,000 square feet of space on 9.6 acres, the plant is one of the largest in the country.

As one of four quality assurance technologists at the plant, Brackebusch—in addition to supervising the inspection of all raw materials—is area technologist for food service items. This part of the plant produces over half the Oscar Mayer wieners that will ultimately be sold through food service vendors in this country. One of the best aspects of this job, according to Brackebusch, is that he can have direct impact on the final product that his division produces. "Working on a project and improving our product through my input is extremely satisfying. It's a real source of pride," he says.

Brackebusch says he also has the independence and authority to pursue research projects on any aspect of the product he feels needs improvement, from cooking performance to packaging. His responsibility and high profile give him the opportunity to interact with a wide range of people within the company. "On a given day," he says, "I will talk with people on the line, supervisors and corporate headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin."

He says his master's degree in meat science prepared him for his job by providing background in the fundamental principles that affect his products. He also learned how to conduct effective research and interpret results as part of his studies at the University of Illinois. He credits these skills making him more effective at solving the problems his division faces.

As a member of the University of Illinois judging team, Scott Brackebusch was top-scoring individual in two of five national meat judging contests. Here, Scott examines samples at the university's meat lab during work on his master's degree.

Brackebusch can trace a direct path from his high school agriculture classroom to his desk at Oscar Mayer. He grew up on a central Illinois beef farm, but it took classroom instruction by his new ag teacher, Jack Loving, and later the FFA meats judging contest to introduce him to the meats industry beyond the farm. He admits that he did not make an instant connection between his classroom instruction and his eventual career, but he did develop skills and interest in meat judging that eventually made his current job possible.

He says this is one of the best things about FFA. "FFA and its many contests relate to every facet of the ag industry. Farming accounts for the minority of people in the agricultural industry, but contests are available to anyone and can all lead to a variety of career—careers a student would not otherwise know existed," he says.

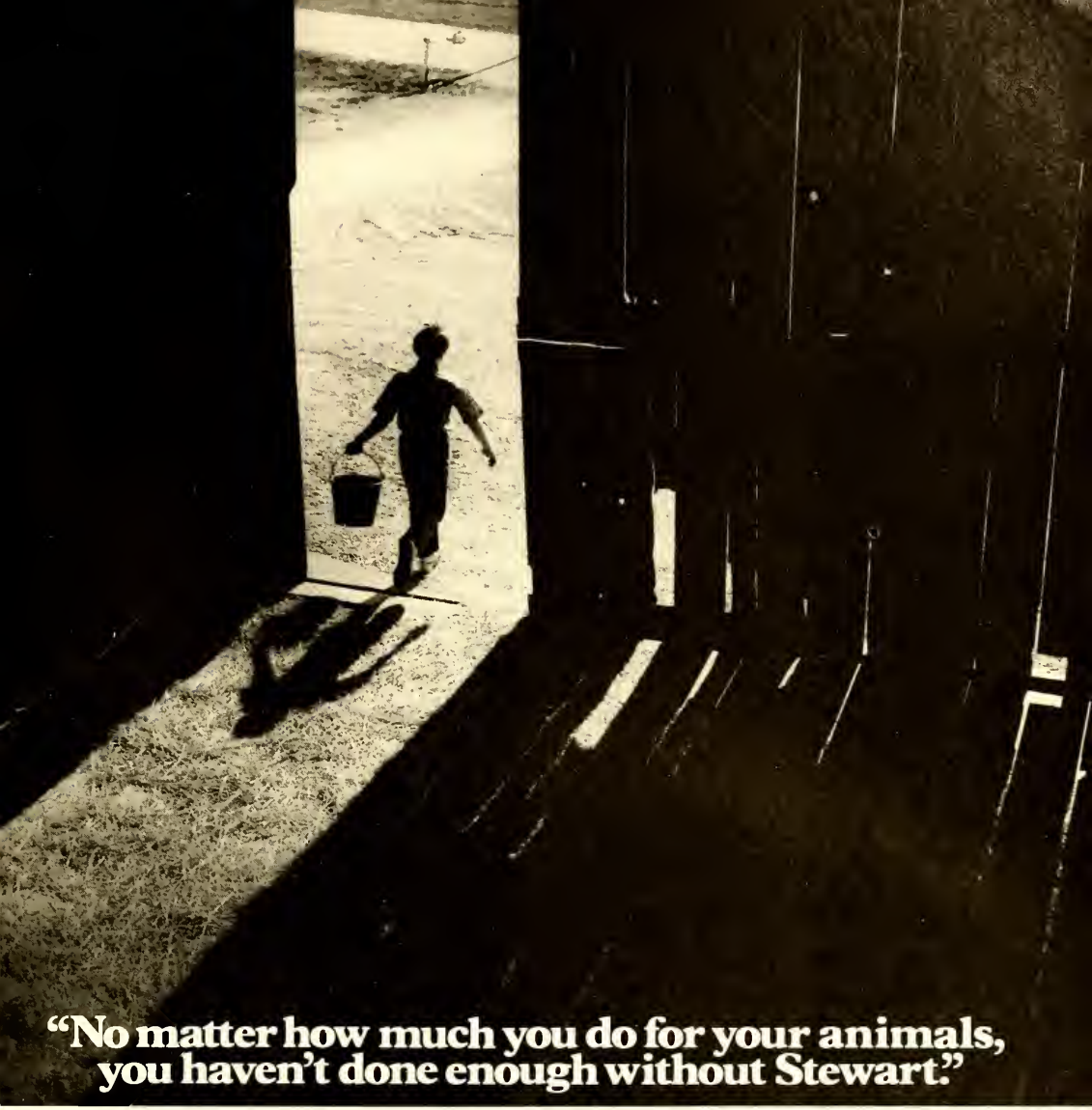
A consistent theme through Brackebusch's education is his interest in meat judging. His first real success was winning the section FFA contest and ultimately making the top 10 individuals in the state as a senior. He then moved on to the state 4-H meats judging team and U of I college meats judging team.

School Days

Brackebusch's high school studies followed the college-bound track—including high school agriculture classes. Once in college he studied agricultural economics and added animal science courses because of his farm background. Scott had not always planned to go to college, but his success on the judging teams and his growing interest in the meats industry nudged him toward a master's degree during his senior year.

After graduating in 1985 with a bachelor of science degree in agricultural economics, Brackebusch began taking advanced science and math courses to prepare for graduate school. In the summer of 1986 Scott started his master's studies and began helping Dr. Tom Carr, who had been his coach, work with the University of Illinois fall meat judging team.

Even though Brackebusch has been with his company a short time, he is committed and very pleased with his career. "Oscar Mayer is one of the best companies in the industry. My job gives me a chance to grow and improve professionally," he says. "I figure I'm lucky." •••



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–Charlie Swaim,
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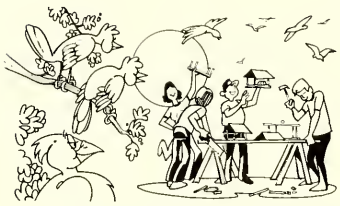
Chapter Scoop

Seven **Jefferson**, Ohio, members landscaped the local school board's office after a classroom session on the subject.

FFA'ers from **Santa Maria**, California, Chapter helped set up and fold napkins and blow up balloons for a banquet when Oliver North was in town.

Agri-tour for members of **Hollis**, Oklahoma, was to an ice cream factory.

Recycling projects for the **Winlock**, Washington, Chapter will help them earn the money to go to the national convention.



Fremont, Ohio, FFA freshmen constructed over 25 bird feeders last winter, with some being used for Christmas gifts for parents and relatives.

Pam Griffin of the **Colfax**, Washington, Chapter counted 224 banners on display in the vo-ag classroom. That's all the banners earned by the chapter since 1946.

Five **Spencer**, Wisconsin, members and their advisor traveled to Bowdle, South Dakota, in September, to exchange ideas with the Bowdle chapter. A reverse exchange will occur in February.

Chapter members and Alumni members from **Gervais**, Oregon, worked together on a booth at the local Octoberfest and sold cheese.

All of the **Ashland**, Missouri, members had fun and make some extra money for the chapter at the annual turkey shoot.

Landscaping competition is popular with the **Fillmore**, California, members. They won over $900 in premiums at the county fair.

Anthony Larson, reporter for **Lemmon**, South Dakota, FFA sent news about their chapter feeding and watering the animals in the nursery at the Rapid City fair.

Seniors in the **New Lexington**, Ohio, Chapter get to take an air tour over their community to see the agriculture from that prospective. Plane was provided by Mr. Newlon and the FFA'ers get a half-hour ride to look at their home.

When the chapter secretary at **Salem**, Oregon, moved to Texas, they had an election and seven members ran for the office. Treasurer Wendy Garrison was elected secretary and then Ray Meeker was elected new treasurer.

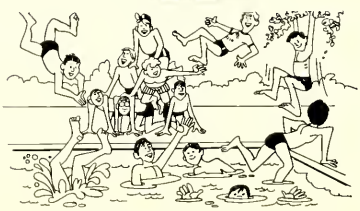
Members who wear their FFA jackets to the chapter meetings for **Wessington Springs**, South Dakota, FFA are eligible for the door prize drawing at each meeting.

Gillett, Wisconsin, Chapter's big project early this school year was cleaning up the beach and parking area of Finnegan's Lake.

Wind River, Wyoming, FFA organized a disaster drill for the school. A mock explosion "injured" 30 student actors and county emergency groups were able to practice their procedures.

A watermelon bust in August was the opening event to get new members of **Fredericktown**, Missouri, Chapter acquainted with the current members.

Skiatook, Oklahoma, built eight sets of bleachers for Little League fields.



The **Hanford**, California, FFA Chapter got wet 'n wild at their August meeting when they used the high school pool and had a swim party. This meeting also served as an icebreaker for freshmen and other members.

Bon Home, South Dakota, Chapter pays the dues of state degree recipients each year as recognition for their work and to get them started toward the American FFA Degree.

Officers for the **Gilroy**, California, Chapter selected their own theme for the 1988-89 FFA year—"There's No End In Sight."

Parents and members of the **Weatherford**, Oklahoma, FFA enjoyed the ice cream and cake social to get acquainted with others in the chapter.

While at the Utah Vocational Leadership Conference, the **Clearfield** FFA walked away with the FFA Pride Award—meaning that it was the chapter with the most officers in full official dress.

The **Midview**, Ohio, FFA held its annual pork raffle and drew the winning name at halftime of the homecoming game. Both the hog and the butchering and wrapping were contributed by local business supporters.

A tour of chapter members' projects is a fun summer activity for the **Meadowbrook**, Ohio, Chapter. The tour ends with a big picnic near a lake.

Amber-Pocassett, Oklahoma, FFA sponsored a chapter motto contest. Winner was "Others Dream It, We Accomplish It" submitted by Shelly Lindsey.

DeKalb County, Tennessee, FFA had their annual barnwarming dance with the FHA.

Elmwood, Illinois, sponsored three "bossy" bingo games. One bossy didn't cooperate and that game lasted from 7:00 P.M. until 11:30 P.M.

So you know—we're really anxious to get news from all the chapters out there. And we really prefer not to get releases about fair show results, officer election results, citrus fruit sales and judging team results. These three topics are done by many chapters, so the idea is not unique. Tell us about some of the other nifty things the FFA is doing in your school.

Continue the FFA Spirit

In many ways, senior Patty Rupell is a typical Delaware Valley College student. She is bright, articulate and involved in a number of activities, including Future Farmers of America. Patty, who is president of DelVal's FFA chapter, believes strongly in the FFA philosophy and thinks high school students should be encouraged to pursue an agricultural education if they so choose.

But after graduating from Warren Hills Regional High School in New Jersey a couple of years ago, Patty wasn't sure if she would be able to continue her association with FFA in college. When she got to DelVal, however, she found out differently. FFA is alive and well at DelVal!

Patty's major is Ornamental Horticulture with an emphasis on floriculture. But DelVal's FFA chapter is represented by all seven agriculture majors: Agronomy and Environmental Science, Agribusiness, Animal Science, Dairy Science, Food Science and Management, and Horticulture. Everyone pitches in together on projects.

Being associated with FFA is just one way Patty has gotten a great education at DelVal. Her professors are friendly and easy to talk to. They treat her as an individual, not just another face in the crowd.

Her classes are small, sometimes with only four or five other students. One day she's in the classroom discussing theory. And the next day she's out in the field putting that theory to work.

Patty Rupell is president of Delaware Valley College's FFA chapter.

Besides classes and FFA, Patty is into a lot of other activities at DelVal. She's a member of the Floral Society and Delta Tau Alpha, the national agriculture honor society. And she's a member of the College's National AgriMarketing Association chapter. By being in these organizations, Patty has learned a lot and met many people who will probably help her after graduation.

By the way, DelVal grads are really in demand. For example, every member of the Class of 1986 was employed or enrolled in graduate school within six months of graduation. The number for the Class of 1987 were just as impressive. Quite a few recent graduates are already pursuing interesting careers in the wide open agriculture industry.

Pretty soon, Patty is going to join the ranks of DelVal grads. She may go on to graduate school. Or she may get her teaching certificate. Or she may start on her career right away. Whatever option she chooses, a DelVal education will definitely help her reach her goals.

You can continue the FFA spirit and get a great education at DelVal. Just fill out the coupon below and mail it to the Office of Admissions. Or call DelVal at (215) 345-1500, Ext. 2211 for more information.

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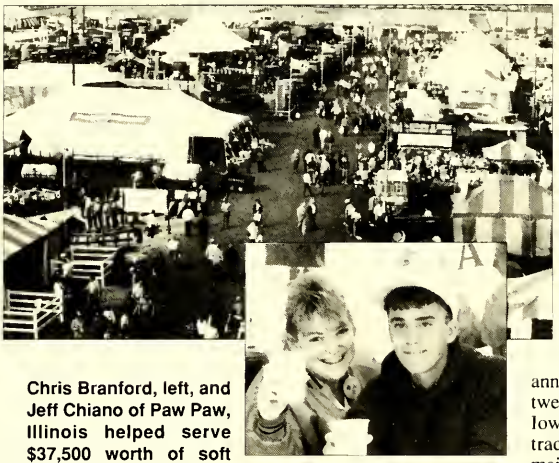
Farm Progress Show Helps FFA Chapters Raise Money

Six Illinois FFA chapters helped boost their chapter savings accounts when they helped sell soft drinks at the Farm Progress Show, held September 27-29 in West Brooklyn, Illinois.



Chris Branford, left, and Jeff Chiano of Paw Paw, Illinois helped serve $37,500 worth of soft drinks at the Farm Progress Show.

FFA members from the Amboy, Ashton, Franklin Center, Mendota, Paw Paw and Rochelle chapters, along with Lee County 4-H members, sold a total of $37,500 worth of soft drinks to the 210,000 people who attended the 3-day event.

The Farm Progress Show is the nation's largest outdoor machinery show and is an annual event that rotates between Illinois, Indiana and Iowa. This year's show attracted 340 exhibitors—mainly seed, machinery and chemical companies—to the north-central Illinois location.

The FFA and 4-H members staffed 11 soft drink stands throughout the exhibition area. They worked in two six-hour shifts starting at 6 a.m. and ending at 6 p.m. According to Tom Budd, publisher of *Illinois Prairie Farmer* magazine, the net income—between 60 and 70 percent of the $37,500 gross income—will be distributed to the chapters and the county 4-H based on the number of workers each group provided.

Farm Progress Companies, Inc., who publishes *Prairie Farmer* receives 10 percent of the soft drink proceeds, most of which they donate to the National FFA Foundation.

Paw Paw FFA Advisor Brian Fehr said the money raised by his chapter would go toward sending six chapter members to National FFA Convention in Kansas City.

John Deere's New 4WD Tractors

John Deere's new 60 Series line of four-wheel-drive tractors has been engineered completely through computer-aided design using information gathered from dealers and large-scale producers.

The 8560 model is powered by a 235 horsepower engine, the 8760, 300 engine hp and the 8960, 370 engine hp. All engines feature turbochargers for improved fuel economy and air-to-liquid aftercooling.

The new models offer a modular design that allows producers to customize their own tractor by choosing one of three new transmissions (including a 24-speed PowrSync transmission that provides six speeds in four ranges) and whether or not they need a 3-point-hitch and PTO.

The new simplified design also allows for faster serviceability. The engine, transmission and axle assemblies may be removed and repaired without a major vehicle tear-down.

Deere claims that to remove and replace an engine in a 60 Series tractor takes only 4-6 hours, down from 20-24 hours necessary on past models. All daily service points have been located for easy accessibility. •••

All three 60 Series 4WD tractors feature a redesigned Sound-Guard Body with a new interior air quality system, full electronic instrumentation and a front windshield free of obstructions.

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Following these rules will help make you a safer rider. And safe riders are less likely to get hurt.

An ATV is a lot of fun. But play it safe.

For rider training information, call 1-800-447-4700.

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New Directions

National Academy of Sciences study prescribes changes in agricultural education and FFA

By Andrew Markwart

Every once in awhile, something comes along to shake-up vocational agriculture and FFA. The Vocational Education Act of 1963 called for the broadening of instruction to include off-farm interests, such as agribusiness.

In 1969, girls were first recognized as official FFA members after a lengthy and heated debate. Each of these events had a major impact on local agriculture departments and FFA chapters.

Now comes a study that may influence more change in agricultural education and FFA than the previous two examples put together—and then some.

The study, titled *Understanding Agriculture: New Directions for Education*, concluded that the focus of agricultural education must change and that more emphasis be put on education *about* agriculture from kindergarten through the twelfth grade.

To achieve a "vision of what agricultural education is and should become at the secondary (high school) level if a competitive agricultural industry is to survive in this country," the study outlines a set of recommendations for vocational agriculture and the FFA that builds "on the programs and approaches of the past but goes beyond them in scope and content."

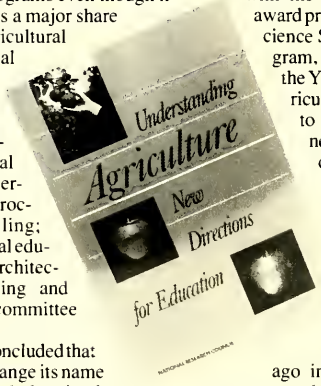
During the course of the study, the study committee discovered a disturbing lack of understanding about agriculture in the general public. As a result the committee recommends a national goal of achieving "agricultural literacy," a task which would extend the teaching of agricultural concepts to all levels of public education.

"Agriculture is too important a topic to be taught only to the relatively small percentage of students considering careers in agriculture and pursuing vocational agriculture studies," reported the committee.

High School Agriculture

The study committee found that even though vocational agriculture has had a positive effect on thousands of people, the focus and content of the programs is outdated and they are uneven in quality.

The committee said that production agriculture, or farming, still dominates most vocational programs even though it no longer represents a major share of the jobs in the agricultural industry. Vocational agriculture should also teach skills in agribusiness management and marketing; agricultural research and engineering; food science, processing and retailing; banking; agricultural education; landscape architecture; urban planning and other fields, the committee concluded.



The study also concluded that "the FFA should change its name and revise its symbols, rituals, contests, awards, and requirements for membership... to reflect a contemporary image of agriculture and a broadened and improved agricultural education program."

A review of the 18 amendments to the National FFA Constitution reveals that the FFA is addressing many of the study committee's concerns already. Along with the amendments, new FFA award programs such as the Agriscience Student Recognition Program, Agriscience Teacher of the Year and Computers in Agriculture have been developed to address the changing needs of agriculture students.

The study was conducted by the National Research Council, the research arm of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. The study was commissioned four years ago in a cooperative funding agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Education.

Extra copies of the report may be obtained from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418. The book retails for $8.95. •••

Video Conference '88 Helps Answer Questions

To help educators across the country better understand the study's recommendations, the National Council for Vocational and Technical Education in Agriculture (The Council) broadcast a live satellite television program, "Video Conference '88, The National Forum on Agricultural Education in the United States," on October 25.

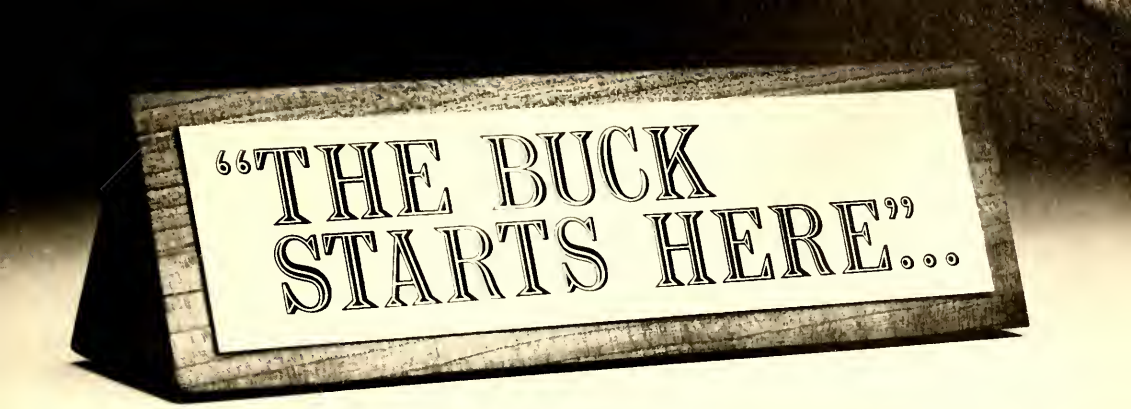
The video conference was broadcast from USDA studios in Washington, D.C. A number of land-grant universities were able to phone-in questions live to the panel participants.

The video conference opened with remarks from Orville Bentley, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Bonnie Guiton, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Education, who talked about the study's findings and implications for agricultural education.

Answering calls on live satellite television are, left to right, Dr. Daniel Aldrich, Lynn Wyvil (moderator), Dr. Larry Case and Kelli Evans.

Kelli Evans, national FFA president and Larry Case, national FFA advisor and chairman of The Council, fielded phone calls from state callers along with Dr. Daniel Aldrich, chairman, National Academy of Sciences Study Committee and Dr. Jane Coulter, director of Higher Education, USDA.

Most states held meetings prior to and after the video conference to discuss the study and the future of agricultural education in their state.



To you, it's a $500 to $25,000 college scholarship. To us, it's meeting tomorrow's agricultural challenges with today's brightest young minds.

No one is as dedicated to the future of the American agricultural industry as the National FFA Foundation and its FFA college scholarship sponsors.

In fact, our main purpose is to help today's young men and women discover, develop and use more of their talents in pursuit of more rewarding careers in agriculture.

These days the cost of an agricultural-related college education can easily exceed $25,000. Of course, it's a worthy investment, but the fact is that a college education can be beyond the reach of many parents and students.

Fortunately, there's something you can do to get your college education off the ground...with an FFA college scholarship. You're qualified if you are an FFA member and a senior in high school.

The scholarships are available for most agriculture/agribusiness majors, for two or four year institutions.

And you don't need to be a state/national "leader" or award winner to apply. The scholarships are available regardless of creed, gender, or country of origin.

There is no limit to the number of applications per FFA chapter. Selection will be based on your experience program, leadership activities and academic record.

So if you are a 1989 graduating high school senior who is an FFA member interested in a career in agriculture or agribusiness, why not get a helpful hand...with an FFA scholarship?

Complete and mail the scholarship application request form below -OR- pick up a scholarship application form from your chapter FFA Advisor beginning January 15, 1989.

Expected scholarships for 1989 are listed below, by the total amount of contributions given to the FFA Scholarship program through the National FFA Foundation:

$10,000 to $30,000
Beef Industry Council on Behalf of the Beef Board
FARMAID
Firestone Trust Fund
Santa Fe Southern Pacific Corporation
TSC Industries, Inc.
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

$5,000 to $9,999
Associated Milk Producers, Inc.
Babson Bros. Co.
Business Men's Assurance Company of America
ConAgra, Inc.
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Jacques Seed Company
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Up to $4,999
Ag Radio Network, Inc.
Aliflex/Vet Brand, Inc.
Alpha Gamma Rho Educ. Foundation
American Dairy Goat Association
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Bartlett and Company
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Bunge Corporation
Capital Agricultural Property Services, Inc.
Carhartt, Inc.
CARQUEST Corporation
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Earl May Seed & Nursery L.P.
Eastern Apiculture Society of North America
Farmers Hybrid Companies Inc.
Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa
FiberTech Agricultural Products
First Interstate Bank of California
First Mississippi Corporation Foundation
Ford New Holland, Inc.
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Illinois Farmers Union
Kansas City Southern Industries
Livestock Marketing Association
Manna Pro Corporation
Miller Miester Advertising, Inc.
Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Monrovia Nursery Co.
National Pork Producers
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Ellen Nielsen Cooperative Memorial
Norfolk Southern Foundation
Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council
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Wyandot, Inc.

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22309

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ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS NEEDED: ☐

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY MARCH 1, 1989

FFA Chapter President Races Stock Cars For Hobby

By Tammy Smith

Thomas Brown does one of the things parents dread most—he gets behind the wheel of a car and drives like crazy.

The 17-year-old FFA president at Weiner High School in Weiner, Arkansas, drives in stock car races every weekend and he has the money and trophies to show for it.

"My Dad used to race when I was nine or ten. They'd sneak me into the pits. I've been around it a long time, and it kind of gets in your blood."

Stock car racing is the most popular kind of automobile racing in the United States, particularly in the South where it originated.

Thomas has been racing for almost a year, and has won several trophies, including, most recently, the high point trophy which highlights his success for the whole year. He's also won more than $2,000 at Crowley's Ridge Raceway, a quarter-mile dirt track near Jonesboro, Arkansas. "We've about broken even and that's pretty good," he said.

The "we" means he and his father, Tommy, who serves as stock car racing coach to Thomas. His father has given up stock car racing and now farms 750 acres of rice, soybeans and milo in Weiner with his son's help.

"Dad used to race and he tells me what needs to be done and how to do it. He shows me how to do everything on the car. If it wasn't for him, there is no way I'd be up at the front, says Thomas."

His father said if it wasn't for a vision problem in one eye, "I'd still be at it."

Thomas said, grinning, "He says he's getting too old, but I think he likes to watch me."

Cars, Cars, Cars

Thomas has gone through three cars thus far. He works on his car every night. Racing adds to the high school senior's grueling schedule. As soon as school is out he starts to work on the farm. Then he eats supper and heads to his dad's shop to work on his stock car.

Thomas shrugs off the suggestion that stock car racing is dangerous. In the same breath, he explains that he wears a helmet, harness and has a fire extinguisher at his side during the races.

"You're in wrecks sometimes, but it's safe enough unless you're standing next to the track or do something stupid."

If you're wondering how he drives when it's just around town, he says he's careful. "My dad has made me leery of that. He says, 'Just wait till you get on the track to race.' "

Thomas recently moved into the hobby class from the pure stock class. The cars in the hobby class exceed speeds of 55-65 miles per hour, but "that's fast," according to Thomas, " especially if you have to slow dow n and you're sliding sideways." He hopes to advance to the top category at the raceway, the super hobby. Speeds there can go up to 100 miles per hour.

Things can get pretty sticky in the heat of the race, but Thomas said he doesn't get nervous. "I'm more worried than nervous before a race. I used to be just tense. Everything you did the past week to the car runs through your mind—'Did I do this right? Is this going to stay together? Is so and so running good?' "

He won a race once after several pieces of his car had fallen off, including the hood. He laughs at the time he painted the car just before driving to Beebe for a race. "It dried on the way down, and I lettered it with a spray can when I got there."

Thomas is a Weiner basketball player and a member of the National Honor Society. Before becoming president of the Weiner FFA chapter, he was junior advi sor.

His high school agriculture teacher, Steve Davis, said Thomas is "a leader. He's a good influence on the rest of the chapter." Thomas said that the skills he's learned in class, such as welding, have helped him with his stock car hobby. A soft-spoken young man, Thomas doesn't fit the stereotypical image of a stock car racer.

"Everybody says, 'You race stock cars?' They say it doesn't fit me."

But that suits him just fine. "I'd like to continue, and if I ever have kids, get them started. I don't want to ever quit." •••

Thomas Brown, his father and some friends were sitting in his shop trying to decide on a number for the car when Thomas noticed a can of WD-40. *Photos by Author*

Here's some public speaking tips that will help you in...

Calming the Jitters

By Freya Ottem Hanson

Public speaking can be terrifying. Our hands may sweat, our knees may shake and our memory may go blank. But there are things you can do to make public speaking less unnerving. Let's talk about preparation first.

"Think before you speak," is still an appropriate saying. Speakers need to know their subject matter well. Preparing a good speech requires research and careful thought. Here's an example.

You have been asked to give a speech on leadership. You may want to interview the president of a local club and find out how that person likes being a leader. Ask how he or she prepares for a meeting. Finding out what people think and what they do is interesting research.

In addition to interviews you may want to refer to books on leadership, and you will want to recall your own experience. Think back on times when you were asked to assume a position of leadership. What did you do? What did you say? Once you have researched a subject, you are ready to write.

Crafting the Speech

All speeches begin with openers. Think of one that will interest your audience. Openings can be anecdotes (stories), quotes, facts, questions, or even a description. Although you can use any of these, don't try to do all of them.

For example, if you want to begin with a story about leadership, you may want to reflect on how you ran a meeting—and forgot the rules of parliamentary procedure. Humor is always helpful in a speech.

Taking time to craft a good opening for your speech is time well spent. Plan to spend as much time writing your introduction as any other part of your speech. Your audience hears your opening first, and decides whether to continue listening at that point, and that's critical. To give yourself confidence, memorize your opening, and practice it over and over again.

Now it's time to organize and write the rest of your speech—the body. For example, you may want to define three of the most important qualities of leaders—ability to delegate; ability to see the future of an organization and the ability to motivate people.

Talk about each of these abilities, what they are, how they are accomplished, and when they are used. Give examples of effective leaders in history, and include examples of leaders who abused leadership. Did Hitler and Stalin come to mind? The body of your speech should teach and inform. Use some opinion of your own, but be prepared to back up those statements with quotes or examples.

Once you have the body of your speech ready, read it out loud to see how it sounds, and then move on to your closing. You should spend almost as much time on your closing as your opening. It should be something that will leave an impression or a challenge with your audience. You may use a quote, a description, a story or facts. Maybe your speech on leadership will end with a question like this: Will you run for president the next time you are asked?

Practice

The next step in effective speechmaking is practice. Practice takes the most effort and is often the most neglected part of speechmaking.

You need to practice out loud and become accustomed to your voice. There is nothing more shocking than to hear your voice in a large room.

Practice clear enunciation of words, and don't be afraid to pause. Silence is a great attention-getter. Learning to vary the tone in your voice will also make you a captivating speaker. Pace your voice, and keep speed down.

Now you are ready to present. Here are some tips to help you make a solid presentation:

Wait until you are in front of your audience before you begin to speak. Look your audience in the eye and pause again. Those moments will seem like an eternity to you, but you have just set the stage for your introduction—the one you know so well, and the one you want your audience to hear. Those moments before you speak should create a desire for your audience to hear you.

Don't be afraid to pause. Silence is a great attention-getter.

Now take a deep breath and begin with confidence. Once you have the opener out of the way, the rest of the speech is easier. You will also notice the jitters beginning to disappear.

Don't make apologies. We often make apologies for being scared, for not preparing enough or even for stumbling over a word. Take a lesson from Olympic figure skaters. Do they make apologies for a slip? No, they get back up on the ice and keep going. As a speaker, even if you stumble, continue on with grace and composure.

Keep your hands out of your pockets, and don't lean on the podium. Also, keep your hands to the side when speaking, unless you want to use your hands to make a point. It is alright to use your hands as long as the gestures illustrate, not distract.

The rest you've been told. Don't chew gum. Don't mumble. Speak clearly. Stand straight. Be neatly dressed. Enjoy yourself. Public speaking is fun...once you've calmed the jitters. •••

FFA In Action

It was a dirty job but somebody needed to do it; and Dell City FFA turned the work project into a fun day for chapter members.

Bus Dusters

For this tiny rural school district, summer was winding down, the new school year was just around the corner, and the fleet of school buses was still covered with the dust and dirt accumulated during the typical West Texas spring and summer. The buses needed a good bath, but the school's maintenance men were already working overtime to finish renovation projects before school started.

Who could wash the buses? Who could mobilize a work force on short notice? Enter the Dell City, Texas, FFA.

FFA members washed the district's seven-bus fleet providing a desperately needed service to the district and adding money to the chapter account.

"Admittedly, it was a pretty tough job," said president Kevin Moore. "But add some music, soft drinks and a lot to teamwork, and the job became recreation. (J.D. Lujan, Reporter)

Juvenile Fingerprints

A major activity in community service for the Alexander FFA in Albany, Ohio, is a safety program where 1,100 elementary students were shown how to protect themselves from strangers. In addition, 582 students were fingerprinted as a means of permanent identification and this information was taken home to their parents. The program was completely planned and executed by the chapter in cooperation with the city police and the county sheriff.

The plan has also been adopted by the school administration as an annual activity of the new incoming students each year. (From the National Chapter Award application)

It's Easy as A.B.C.

Victor Cunduff, FFA member and student in construction equipment mechanics at Columbus, Ohio, Northwest Career Center, was interviewed October 3 for the ABC News Special titled "Why America's Kids Flunk." Barbara Walters asked Victor his opinions about teachers. Victor candidly replied that he felt teachers were due more respect, but on the other hand, teachers should also respect students.

In addition to attending Northwest Career Center, Victor is a senior at Eastmoor High School in Columbus. Ms. Walters asked Victor specifically about his teachers at Eastmoor. "They are very human, easy to talk to."

Fellow members of Victor's FFA Chapter were excited about his national interview. Victor said that he did not have time to get nervous; he was too busy concentrating on how to answer the questions. (Robert Vols, Reporter)

Science On the Land

Students in the agriculture and natural resources program at Limestone Junior/Senior High School in Maine developed a "land laboratory" at the school on 24 acres of cropland purchased by the school in 1986.

FFA members planted over 100 apple trees and 1,000 Christmas trees in spring and summer.

Five acres of the lab is devoted to the production of potatoes, and another five acres will be devoted to small grain production. A landscape demonstration area is also included in the lab, as well as an area for students to raise their own crops.

The land laboratory provides the Limestone members with a unique resource where they can learn first hand the proper techniques in producing a variety of agricultural products. A major emphasis in the planning of the lab has been on developing areas that demonstrate diversification of agriculture in areas other that potatoes. The laboratory will also focus on modern agricultural practices and the importance that science and technology play.

Students will use the area to learn how the various crops are produced, managed, and marketed. First hand skills in pesticide use, crop rotation, Christmas tree shearing, grafting apple trees, and propagating landscape shrubs will provide the students with valuable experiences for future careers, post secondary education and as consumers. This reflects the new direction of the agriculture and natural resources program—with less emphasis on preparing students as future producers and more emphasis on providing skills that will assist them in the related agribusiness industries.

The development of the land laboratory is a real "success story" that has been made possible through the efforts of a number of people. The Limestone School Department has been tremendously supportive of ag and national resources program by purchasing the land.

Also greatly assisting in the project is the local FFA Alumni affiliate who loaned

and donated equipment as well as a great deal of individual time and expertise.

Financial assistance for the development of the diversification aspect of the laboratory has been provided through the Department of Education and Cultural Services and the Innovative Educational Grant program.

Olympic Substitute

Since most FFA members were unable to attend Seoul, South Korea, for the summer Olympic Games, the Tri-Rivers, Ohio, Chapter held its own mini-olympics in September. Members of each voag class were assigned to represent athletes of different countries—USA, USSR, France, China, Italy and Spain.

The competitive events included egg toss, baby bottle chug, greased watermelon pass and scavenger hunt. Despite fierce competition in all the events and a strong showing by second place Italy, Team USA emerged victorious. The winning team was treated to pizza and pop in lieu of an official medal ceremony.

Classroom Crop

The Elkton, South Dakota, Chapter's largest financial undertaking is their mushroom agribusiness. Kelly Kramer is taking out three flats of mushrooms for sale. This is $27 worth of mushrooms. The Chapter borrowed $8,400 from the Board of Education to grow and market a continuous crop. Much of the initial cost has been repaid and members earn wages for their labor in the agribusiness project. (From the National Chapter Award application)

FFA members worked to complete field tests of the different varieties of corn that were harvested. After harvesting, all data was compiled and presented to all interested parties in the community along with the seed companies involved.

Pass or Fail Tests

The East Clinton Chapter in Lees Creek, Ohio, operated a 30 acre farm, half of which was used for a chapter project, and the other half for the FFA test plot.

Students were involved in all aspects of the farming program. Some of the students did the plowing, disking, planting, spraying and cultivating and combining.

The senior class did the marketing of the crop as they figured out which way to sell the corn. The corn yielded 120 bushels per acre with a 58 test weight. The crop brought about $3,600 for the chapter from the 16 acres. All members were involved in some stage of the program along with two classes following the grain from the field to the barge in Cincinnati. (From the National Chapter Award application)

The Prestige of Victory

Every year the ten most active members of Mountain View, Washington, FFA are given the opportunity to travel to anywhere in the Pacific Northwest they wish to go. Over 200 members start out the year eligible, but 10 get the trip paid for by the chapter.

Mr. Yorke and five members went to Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. They road a ferry to the island, which was a lot of fun. While on the island they fished in a couple rivers and chartered a boat and went salmon fishing. The entire costs were covered by the chapter treasury.

Mr. Cooper and five members drove to Lake Chelan. They rented jet skis and a boat to water ski. They also spent an afternoon on the water slides. They then drove across the North Cascades Highway to Anacortas; then took a ferry to Orcus Island in the San Juans. The island was very beartiful and quiet. It was just like stopping the clock when we got on the island. (From the National Chapter Award application)

Camper Champs

The Genoa, Ohio, FFA sent ten students and one of the advisors, Mr. Schnieder, to Greenhand Camp at Muskingum, September 16-18th.

The first day was titled Team Work Day. During this day the FFA members learned how to handle rifles, shotguns, and try archery. The students were also instructed on how to use canoes. There were lectures on "Who am I," "What is FFA"and "New Gold For Olde Glory." At the end of the day there were local chapter

(Continued on Page 40)

FFA In Action

meetings and a group campfire.

The second day was called Opportunity Day. Presentations were made by three state officers, titled "FFA—Where Do I Fit In".

The next session was given by Mr. Rick Metzger, the National FFA Alumni president, "The Harder I Work, The Luckier I Get." He spoke to the students about setting goals and achieving them.

There were sporting tournaments in the evening between different chapters. In these tournaments there was a canoe race at the waterfront. The FFA Quiz was given to all the students and was won by Genoa member, Kevin Walsh. The Chapter as a whole came in first place team in basketball, on the shotgun range, and in the scavenger hunt. After the dinner hour there was a beach party and a campfire.

The third day began with "vespers" to help students become better people and work towards a better world. At the 10:15 A.M. closing session, students were reminded of what they learned and how to apply that knowledge to their home FFA chapter. (Vicki Colvin, Reporter)

Ride 'Em Cowboy

The Lexington, Tennessee, FFA Alumni Arena is very popular in our community and profitable to our chapter.

This year we've had at least five rodeos and many horse shows. We have a chapter of 175 members this year and usually get 75 or so to help in these shows by working in the concession stand and by helping make the people comfortable.

The Lexington Alumni gave the FFA the land and we built the arena. Money we make from the arena goes to the chapter; but another purpose for hosting these shows is to involve the community. And that means a lot to us to have the people supporting us.

We just had a junior rodeo for the young people. Only children kindergarten through eighth grade could participate. The young girls participated in calf roping and barrel racing. The young boys participated in bull rides and team roping. The chapter awarded money and trophies donated from businesses. The average attendence was about 400.

Street Scene

The El Reno, Oklahoma, Chapter took to the street and participated in the annual Heritage Days celebration. Chapter officers and members participated in three events over the two week period of the celebration.

The first event was the community bed race in which teams pushed a homemade bed over a 200 yard course. The chapter placed sixth in a field of 28 teams with a time of 36.24 seconds.

The next event was the wild cow ribbon and halter race. In this event four FFA members had to catch a haltered cow, pull the ribbon from the tail, and then take the halter off the head of the cow. A member then had to race to the judges line with both the ribbon and the halter.

The final event was the Heritage Days parade. Chapter officers and members drove three tractors of different sizes and eras. Members drove a 1968 John Deere lawn tractor, a 1930 John Deere model G, and an 1986 John Deere 4440. (Doug Tabb, Reporter)

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Pulling For Publicity

One of the recreational activities during FFA Week for the New Ulm, Minnesota, Chapter is the annual tug of war. This along with other activities makes the week one to look forward to as well as to remember. It is part of the FFA Week tournament. Events are scheduled before classes in the morning and champions are selected for each event. Members are scheduled by class or grade and rotate through the events during the week. Some of the events are: bale throwing, nail pounding, bale moving, wheelbarrow race, sack races, cob throw, bean split, pie eating, ice cream eating, milk drinking and tug-o-war. (From the National Chapter Award application)

My Turn

with

Bill Hollis

It seems we often hear, "It's not what you know but who you know that counts these days," and there just might be something to that.

I often laugh at my initial reason for enrolling in agriculture class—the chance to show cattle at another county fair. It's true, but it wasn't only for the competition of showing cattle. I also wanted to be with friends who shared the same interests that I did.

Probably the most rewarding aspect of membership in the FFA is the people we meet and work with. The friends we've all made through summer camps, conferences, and cattle shows bring membership in the FFA to a much higher importance. It's not a club we belong to...it's a commitment we all hold.

These friends, whether seated next to us in our classes everyday, or living hundreds of miles away, hold a special place in each of our lives. I always looked forward to the next chance to see them at shows, contests and meetings.

This total package still brings me back to the single most important influence of FFA membership, the ability to work with people.

These friends weren't just acquaintances either. When it came time to select officers, work on committees, or put judging teams together, these friendships brought us closer together as we set goals toward mutual success.

FFA activities also connect you and your friends with corporate and hometown business leaders you may not ordinarily meet. This gives you a direct link to valuable advice on real-life experiences.

My plans are not to be a full-time farmer, but the education I've received about the agricultural industry and the character skills I have learned in FFA have truly given me an edge.

It's this edge that agribusiness professionals talk about. During an industry tour to a major chemical company, our national officer team heard two past FFA members, now corporate executives, explain about the need for young people with this competitive edge.

This edge is the ability to relate well with other people. After sitting down with executives to discuss the future of agriculture and the FFA, you will find yourself promoting "the edge" too.

Let's take a good look at our history. With all of the progress and diversity of agricultural education, what hasn't changed?

For our sixty straight years of existence, the one aspect of our organization that has stood unwavering is our structure for the exchange of ideas and the successful accomplishment of well-planned goals.

We all take pride in being positive, self-starting workers. We also have a structure as an organization that allows each chapter to create programs that exactly meet the needs of their community and school.

This total package still brings me back to the single most important influence of FFA membership, the ability to work with people. I'm sure you've been honing these skills much longer than you think.

I'll bet you've made some lifelong friends through the FFA—those who support you, motivate you, advise you and just listen when you're in need. In the end, "what you know" is certainly important, but it's "who you know" that makes life enjoyable and worthwhile. Best Wishes and God's blessings for your success. •••

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Joke Page

One farmer's son to another: *"My Dad lost in the stock market yesterday."*

"That's too bad."

"Yeah, a truck hit his prize pig."

Dan Gazlay
Sevierville, Tennessee

Teenager to father: *"You haven't been listening to me. If you had, you'd have hit the ceiling by now."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

Trying to unsay a bad remark is like trying to unscramble an egg.

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

"I can see stamps or coins, but why on earth would anyone want to collect bills?"

Did you hear about the pioneer in the Dakotas in the 1870's whose horse came to a sudden stop?

Injun trouble!

Jose L. Salinas
Rome, Texas

I was sitting in the barn milking the cow when a load of city folks came driving up. A man got out of the car and came in and asked what time it was. I said, *"It's about six o'clock."*

He asked how I could tell time by holding the cow's udder.

I said, *"Come and set down and I will show you."* I told him to pick up the udder. *"A little higher, a little bit higher,"* I said. *"Do you see that clock on the wall over there?"*

Michael Shannahan
Jasper, Texas

One day a man and his wife were driving along a highway when they passed a rabbit farm. A little farther down the road they spotted a dead rabbit on the side of the road. *"Oh Dear!"* the wife exclaimed. *"I think we should notify the farm one of their rabbits has died."*

When the couple arrived with the rabbit, a woman came out with a bottle and squirted the rabbit a couple of times. The rabbit jumped up, ran ten feet, waved; ran another ten feet then waved again.

"What is in the bottle?" the wife shrieked.

"Hair revitalizer with a permanent wave."

Jim Stringari
Belgrade, Montana

Mother: *"Tommy, what are you doing, darling?"*

Tommy: *"Nothing much, Mom. With you, and God and Santa Claus watching all the time, I can't do much."*

Tony Grenz
Baker, Montana

The Scouts were each given a list of things to bring to summer camp. A counselor found one boy had brought an umbrella, an overcoat and three pairs of overshoes, none of which was on the list. Confused, he asked the boy why. *"Didn't you ever have a grandmother?"* replied the boy.

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

Q. How many paws does a lion have?
A. One paw and one maw.

Mark Ratliff
Wheatfield, Indiana

Q. Why are football stadiums so cold?
A. Because there are so many fans.

Danyal Huang
Tampa, Florida

Q. Which month do soldiers dislike the most?
A. A long March.

Janine Ritz
Seligman, Missouri

Charlie, the Greenhand

"It's a school day and you don't need a doctor—you need acting lessons."

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